

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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P 211130Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6609

S E C R E T KINSHASA 1549

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, US

SUBJECT: MOBUTU PROPOSES USE OF HIS AIRFIELDS TO NATIO, BUT NEEDS
MONEY

REF: KINSHASA 1512

1. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION REFTEL, IN CONTEXT OF HIS DISAPPOINTMENT AT FRENCH ATTITUDE, MOBUTU SAID HE HAD A REAL PROBLEM IN THE THE RUNWAYS AT TWO BASES WHERE HIS NEW MIRAGES ARE TO BE LOCATED ARE IN TERRIBLE DISREPAIR. MOBUTU SAID THE FRENCH WON'T PAY FOR IT AND HE CAN'T GIVE HIS FINANCIAL PROBLEM AND THE CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY THE IMF. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED TO THE BELGIANS ABOUT GETTING NATO TO FUND THE RUNWAY PROJECTS IN RETURN FOR ACCESS IN TIME OF NEED AND HIS AGREEMENT TO USE THE AIRFIELDS FOR FLYING TRAINING FOR BELGIAN OR OTHER NATO PILOTS.

2. MOBUTU EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT "FOREIGN BASES" BUT RATHER WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO FUND PART OF HIS DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS IN RETURN FOR WHICH HE WAS WILLING TO OFFER FACILITIES. HE THOUGHT THE USG, WHILE IT WOULD HAVE TROUBLE GETTING SUCH AN IDEA THROUGH CONGRESS, WOULD BE ABLE TO USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH NATO. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT THIS WAS A NOVEL IDEA WHICH I WOULD CERTAINLY REPORT TO WASHINGTON. HE TOLD ME TO SEE GEN. BABIA WHO HAD ALL THE DETAILS.

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EM CHIEF, ZAMISH MET WITH GENERAL BABIA AND OTHER

RESPONSIBLE DDN OFFICIALS ON FEBRUARY 20 AND 21 IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN DETAILS. WE WERE PRESENTED WITH THE FRENCH VERSION OF A GENERAL PLAN TO UPGRADE THE FOLLOWING FIVE BASES: N'DJILI, N'DOLO, CAMINA, KOLWEZI AND KATONA. THIS UPGRADING INCLUDES EXTENSION OF RUNWAYS, JET BARRIERS, REVETMENTS, MUNITION STORAGE SITES, TAXIWAYS AND NAVIGATIONAL AIDS. AS A BEST ESTIMATE MAGNITUDE OF THIS INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN SHOULD REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS TO COMPLETE.

4. ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF PLAN WILL BE MAILED IN NEXT POUCH.
WALKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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